



The Evangel

Vol. 38, Edition 5

May 2021

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

*is a congregation of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.*

*We welcome all
to share in life with Christ
as a community
of faith in mission.*

OSLC's Vision & Mission

*God calls us to be a community of
discipleship for all, making Christ's
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling
Love and serve God and neighbor
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

Worship Online

& In-person

10:00 A.M. on Sundays

Join the Zoom Meeting or watch
live on OSLC's facebook page.

Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org)
and she'll send you a bulletin
and a Zoom invite.

To participate in worship at 300
West Fowler on Sunday morn-
ings, please register on the web-
site: osluth.org

Space is limited as we ease back
into in-person worship.



Randy Schroeder, Pastor

A Week of Tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother's Day, or honor her with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative! Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate her love and show her yours.

“There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one.” —Jill Churchill

“The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” —Elaine Heffner

“An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.” — Spanish proverb

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.” —Erma Bombeck

“The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.” —Marion C. Garretty

“Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had.” —Linda Wooten

Forever Changed Re-Opening May 2nd, 2021



Grace, mercy, and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This past year has been unique. The pandemic has changed almost everything we do and how we do it, and that includes worship. For the last 14 months and 3 weeks (but who's counting), we have experimented with technology as our avenue of worship. As we plan to re-open on May 2nd, the experiments will continue.

First, how did we get here and decide that May 2nd would be our first Sunday welcoming parishioners into our sanctuary? The OSLC Council appointed a Task Force to review best practices and time of re-opening. Cindy Modlin Adams, Kathy Heise, Carol Grady and I have worked together to create a Re-opening Document. This document will be sent out to you via email next week and will be available on our website. We encourage you to read it as you feel comfortable coming back into the worship space.

Second, as we welcome you back into the worship space we ask that you:

-“sign-up” and let us know you are coming to OSLC for worship. Because we have limited space and wish to keep healthy distancing, we are welcoming 25 individuals or 13 family units per Sunday. The sign-up will also allow us the capability for any contract tracing, if necessary.

- **For Sunday May 2nd you can call Sandra at 219- 984- 9964 to reserve your spot.**
- **For Sunday May 9th and future Sundays you can call Sandra at 219- 984- 9964 or You can sign up at <https://www.osluth.org/> to reserve your spot.**

- are well and have no signs or symptoms of illness,
- wear a clean double layer mask-even if you have been fully vaccinated,**
- have not traveled to a high-risk area in the last ten days,
- maintain a 6-foot physical distance from anyone outside their family or friend “bubble”, and sit in pews with bulletins and/or communion cups only.
- wash hands often or use hand sanitizer.
- Those who perceive themselves or know they are at high risk for COVID-19 are asked to consider worshipping via Zoom for their own safety. See CDC Medical Conditions and Covid-19. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html
- refrain from singing loudly; Please feel free to hum or sing quietly under your mask.**
- receive communion at your seats using individual pre-packed communion, which will be provided, with instructions.

Third, please be patient as we do our best to engage folks worshipping on-line as well as in-person. We have not attempted this type of Hybrid Worship before, and we are doing our best to provide a meaningful worship experience for all. During the months of May and June expect a combination of live and recorded music. More live music will be introduced as we live into the technical side of streaming live.

Lastly, thank you for your willingness to return to a “new normal” of worship at OSLC. We are forever changed by God’s love and our worship will be forever changed as well. You have been blessed and have been a blessing to me, my family and each other. No matter what form our “hybrid” worship takes, the promise of God’s love and forgiveness; God’s word and life will be proclaimed in our gathering, our hearing the word, our invitation to the meal, and our sending to all nations.

Peace,
Pastor Randy

News & Notes

Council Highlights April 14, 2021



- Motion to approve the hiring of a Live Stream Production Specialist, seconded, passed. (the Finance Team's suggestion: Current estimates are that it will require about 15 hours per week and pay about \$20/hour. This individual will be supervised by Pastor Randy, and probably be evaluated by the Operations Team, subject to consideration by the Council. It has been suggested that the person hired begin on or around July 1.)
- Pastor Randy is meeting with the intern Sunday. If it goes well, we can continue in the process.
- Zoom attendance remains steady.

Our regular Stewardship Column is on hiatus this month.

Look for its return in the June *Evangel*.

Worth celebrating

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although *every* day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to www.NationalDayCalendar.com. Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.



Colombian Students Arrive in July!

Want to make friends with a Colombian student? A past host says Colombia’s fun-loving culture has no rivals! The International Friendship Program at Purdue seeks hosts to match with a group of 30 student researchers arriving in July, here for six months. Meet monthly with your student. Attend a virtual event on May 13 to learn more! Contact Beth Tucker at friendship@purdue.edu to sign up!

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an “EGR.” I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they’re the most in *need* of love because they’re hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, “If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much” (Matthew 5:46, NLT). Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God’s grace and love with people who need it.

Assisting in May

May 2	Dale Buettner
May 9	Emily Ohland
May 16	Robert & Dee Hershberger
May 23	Julie & Carl Huetteman
May 30	Kathy Heise

Community Announcement

On Saturday, May 22 from 10 to 12 noon, Marcia Daehler will have several of Dwayne's photos that are left yet (some framed, some not) available in her driveway, at 220 Connolly St, WL. Also available are some of his outdoor clothing (hiking slacks, shirts, vests), (size 35-6 waist, 32 length, shirts large). These items are free to anyone who wants them and can use them. This is not available to the public, but will be shared with her neighbors, church community and friends. Contact Marcia if you want to know if a specific item is available. 765-743-1894 or mkdaehler@gmail.com If it’s raining on May 22, this will be held on May 29.

MAY UPDATES



dale@osluth.org

Mark your calendars:

Pints with a Pastor Meets May 3 & 17. High Schoolers welcome and encouraged to attend.

Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos: Every Wednesday at 4:30, elementary age kids Zoom with Dale. Family Promise kids will be joining on the first Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday Evening Prayer: April 7th—May 23rd, 7:30-8:00 P.M. via zoom
We hope you can join Miss and Dale once again for weekly prayer. This time it will be in the evening, with a slightly different feel than the Lenten Lectio series. Log onto Zoom and peacefully close out your day with various types of prayers as we journey together through the Season of Easter.

Virtual VBS!

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod **WILL** be hosting a virtual VBS this Summer! The dates have not yet been decided, so stay tuned for more info!

Other Resources

• **Facebook**—“Like” OSLC’s page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>

• **RightNow Media** (bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals & families)-**FREE** OSLC membership:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>



Recommendations for Books on Faith Formation

For Adults

Soul Making: The Desert Way of Spirituality by Alan Jones

Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality by David G. Benner

For Kids (ideal for ages 4-10)

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

***Pints with a Pastor** meets May 3 and 17.

***Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos:** Meets every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M.

***Wednesday Evening Prayer:** Meets via zoom, 7:30-8:00 P.M. Last meeting is May 19.

***Sunday, May 23: Book Discussion at 5:00 P.M. via Zoom**

***Thursday, May 27, 7:30 P.M.: Social Justice Discussion via Zoom** (Talking about Ava Duvernay’s documentary, *13th*.)

“If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning.” —Unknown

May Book Discussion: May 23, 5 P.M.

Matt Haig’s *The Midnight Library*

In *The Midnight Library*, Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, or realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist. She must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

All are welcome! We meet via zoom. Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org) for an invite.



Celebrations in May

The presence of the Spirit of God is often symbolized in the Bible by fire. Moses, for example, saw a burning bush from which God called to him (Exodus 3:2-6).

In the New Testament, fire is said to have “rested” on each of the believers gathered together on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

It has been common for many believers to talk of feeling something like an electrical current or a burning sensation when they have encountered God. For example, John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, spoke of feeling his heart “strangely warmed” as he attended a worship service one Sunday evening.

Those who have had such experiences feel compelled to share the Good News of Christ with others. Someone said that “a burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue.” The flame of faith inside one Christian is likely to start a fire in the hearts of others when the message is shared. The fire of the Spirit in a single person can kindle a fire within many others. The compulsion to speak about the love of God can lead others to the wholeness that comes with salvation.



What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that’s just as key: Jesus’ disciples “were all together in one place.” Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn’t miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus’ first followers hadn’t been assembled on Pentecost, they would’ve missed the outpouring of God’s power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God’s blessings, promises and joy?

Celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost, Sunday, May 23!



Three Interwoven Circles

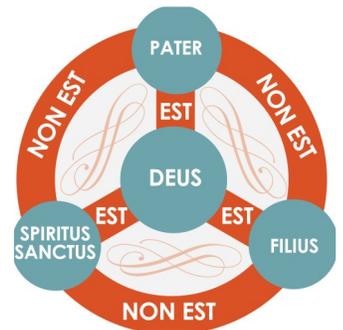
Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity’s eternal nature. The circles’ interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.

This prayer from the Iona Community offers praise to each member of the Trinity:

“We have heard about you, God of all power. You made the world out of kindness, creating order out of confusion ... We have heard about you, Jesus Christ ... the poor man who made others rich; the healer who let himself be wounded ... the Savior who died and rose again ... We have heard about you, Holy Spirit. You broke the bonds of every race and nation, to let God speak in every tongue ... you showed how love made all things new.”

Shield of the Trinity

This symbol consists of a triangle with a circle at each point, labeled in Latin with the three Persons of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A circle in the center is labeled God. Six lines show the relationships formed, with inner lines marked "is" and outer lines marked "is not." The resulting sign declares that God is Father, God is Son and God is Spirit, yet the three Persons are not the same.



Celebrate the Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 30!

Food Finders

You're invited!

Food Finders' largest fundraiser is **virtual** this year. The eighth annual Blue Jean Ball is Saturday, May 1 at 5 pm. No ticket required!

Participating is simple; log onto food-finders.org to watch the live broadcast at 5 pm this Saturday. There will be opportunities to double your donation thanks to Pay Less and even a chance to win an Apple Watch!

The silent auction is already open and the bidding is competitive!

Text 'foodfinders' to 56651 to register today!

Your support makes our work to end hunger possible!



Family Promise Needs

FP hosting week is May 17-21

OSLC will be providing meals on Monday (5/17) and Wednesday (5/19). If you can help prepare food or purchase grocery items for either meal, please contact me. I will finalize menus when we know the number of families and their dietary needs. In addition, you may consider providing frozen entrees/meals to stock the new FP deep freeze.

Also, I have secured Thrivent Team funds to purchase items for baskets for the families. We need to form a team of volunteers. First, we need a couple shoppers to purchase the items to fill the baskets. (I will be checking with Nakeshia and Amanda to confirm which items/baskets are most needed to form our shopping list.) Second, we need a couple organizers to help assemble the baskets at church. I am flexible on dates, but hope to shop and organize baskets on or around May 14 or 17, or some other time during our hosting week.

Looking ahead to June, we host FP again the week of June 7 - 11. OSLC will be providing the meal on Friday (6/11).

Please contact me if you have questions or can help with any of these activities.

Julie Huettelman, FP Coordinator

juliehuettelman@gmail.com

765-491-7819



Hello Friends of Food Finders,

Pay Less and Kroger are honored to be the Presenting Sponsor of the 2021 virtual Blue Jean Ball, and we're proud to join you in the hunger relief mission of North Central Indiana's leading hunger-relief organization. Because of COVID-19 and its impact on families, the work of Food Finders has never been more important – and it is a perfect partner for our Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan. Together, we are working to end hunger in communities served by Kroger and Pay Less.

The needs of the area remain even if we can't gather for a traditional Blue Jean Ball. Designing a virtual fundraising event represents Food Finders' adaptability.

If you have not reserved a Watch Party Kit for your celebration, we can help you create one.

Here's a sample shopping list:

- ⇒ **Burger fans - pick up fresh ground beef or ground turkey**
- ⇒ **Kroger bacon for topping the burger**
- ⇒ **Hamburger buns**
- ⇒ **f you prefer seafood, pick up extra-large shrimp**
- ⇒ **Steak for a homemade surf-n-turf**
- ⇒ **Look for specials on Kroger chips and dip**
- ⇒ **Remember vegetables. Simple Truth has organic frozen varieties**
- ⇒ **Kroger specialty cheeses from Pace Dairy in Crawfordsville make excellent appetizers**
- ⇒ **Triple XXX Root Beer is another locally produced crowd favorite**
- ⇒ **For something stronger, consider Lafayette's-own People's Brew beer.**

Thank you for shopping at Pay Less – and thank you for helping Food Finders.

Sincerely,

Eric Halvorson | Manager of Corporate Affairs

Kroger Central Division | The Kroger Co.





“If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.”
—Maya Angelou

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:00pm: Food Finders' Virtual Blue Jean Ball
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am Worship (In person & via Zoom) Servant Sunday	Pints with a Pastor		4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos 7:30-8:00pm Wed. Evening Prayer via Zoom			
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am Worship (In person & via Zoom) 			4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos 6:30pm Council Mtg via Zoom 7:30-8:00pm Wed Evening Prayer via Zoom			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am Worship (In person & via Zoom) Graduate Recognition	Family Promise Pints with a Pastor	Family Promise	Family Promise 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos 7:30-8:00PM Wed Evening Prayer via Zoom	Family Promise	Family Promise	
23 Pentecost	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am Worship (In person & via Zoom)  5pm Book Discussion via Zoom			4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos	Social Justice Discussion of 13th 7:30pm via Zoom		
30 Holy Trinity Sunday	31 Memorial Day					
10am Worship (In person & via Zoom) 	 MEMORIAL DAY					

Spring Cleaning

*Order, disorder, reorder
is the eternal pattern.*

By Anne E. Basye

From *Gather* (The Magazine of Women of the ELCA)

Volume 34, Issue 3, April 2021

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We've been doing it since time immemorial. No matter how rustic or transitory the shelter, humans—usually female—awaken one fine spring morning to surroundings that suddenly feel dank and stale. Into a sudsy bucket go knives, pots, clothing and whatever warms our family at night. Out go the smelly old boughs or straw or sheets for the beds; in come fresh new greens or linens. At the end, a twig of blossoms brightens the space. Spring cleaning is a pattern so ancient and deep, it's incorporated into human faith practices. Scrubbing living spaces is an essential step to preparing for spring equinox celebrations in Iran, Thailand and China. For Orthodox Christians, the first week in Lent is "Clean Week," which kicks off with "Clean Monday." For Jewish people, Passover can't start until every last crumb of leaven has been hunted down.

Spring certainly makes me want to fling open windows and clean from top to bottom. Whether life is going smoothly or bumping through a rough patch, I find a good deep clean to be healing and restoring.

Cleaning Types and Patterns

Decades of housekeeping have taught me to believe that spring cleaning comes in two flavors. There's cleaning to keep things exactly the same, and then there's cleaning to make space for growth, for something entirely new.

I'm a card-carrying member of the cleaning-for-newness and-growth

camp, but not this year. Now I keep my mom's house. A champion homemaker who values order, she's part of the cleaning-to-fend-off-change camp. Now that she can't clean anymore, she is doubling down. With caregivers and hospice staff in and out of the house to care for my father mostly, but for her too in the bed beside him, her way of being in the world has been disrupted. She can't get her world back, but insisting on an orderly house, with everything in the same place as always, helps her feel more in control.

Still, she can't avoid disorder. To really clean deeply, you have to strip beds, flip mattresses, empty cabinets and beat rugs. In short, you have to make a mess. That's one reason I love Franciscan contemplative Richard Rohr's phrase for the eternal pattern of change and transformation: "Order, Disorder, Reorder." Could there be a better description of spring cleaning?

Rohr says that for change and transformation to happen, we must move from Order through "a period-or even many periods-of Disorder." Often that means loss and disappointment. "There will be a death, a disease, a disruption to our normal way of thinking or being in the world," Rohr says. "It is necessary if any real growth is to occur."

The Disorder stage is all about letting go of control and stepping "out of the driver's seat for a while," Rohr says. (See Rohr's *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder* [Franciscan Media, 2020].)

Then we can open ourselves to Reorder, where we radically "let go and let God." Which is why the template for "Order, Disorder, Reorder" is Jesus, who surren-

dered to God's will, was crucified and was resurrected.

Order. Disorder. Reorder. Life. Death. Resurrection. We enact this pattern again and again as we live our lives and clean our living spaces. To talk about spring cleaning, change and transformation, I give ELCA pastor Becca Ehrlich a call. She shares with me that her recent Order, Disorder, Reorder journey included the death of her infant son, surgery, a chronic-illness diagnosis and multiple job changes and moves. After downsizing from a 3,000-square-foot house to a small apartment, she and her husband felt "like we were drowning in stuff" she says.

A Christian Minimalist

Looking around for help, Becca stumbled upon minimalism. Minimalists try to curate their time and activities so they can focus on what is important. Often they reduce their possessions and cut back on commitments.

The more Becca read, the more she realized that Jesus was a minimalist. So now she's a Christian minimalist—perhaps the only one to refer to herself this way. She chronicles her journey at the intersection of Christian faith and minimalism in her blog at christianminimalism.com.

"Ask yourself: 'What is helping me serve God and neighbor and bringing value to my life in a way that helps me focus on what matters most?'"

'Jesus taught us that the purpose of life is to love God and love others,' she says. "His parable in Luke 12:16-21 of the rich man who built bigger barns to store his grain teaches us that life is not about accumulating stuff."

Consumer society teaches the opposite. "We automatically strive for wealth and possessions," Becca says. "Christian minimalism tries to deconstruct that and make us remember that Jesus tried to teach us 2,000 years ago not to do that."

So how would a Christian minimalist approach spring cleaning?

"By going through and deciding what adds value to life in the name of our faith," Becca says. "Ask yourself: 'What is helping me serve God and neighbor and bringing value to my life in a way that helps me focus on what matters most?'"

Instead of trying to reorganize or declutter, she recommends giving what you own a long, hard look. identify what is most important and consider removing everything else.

Well, almost everything else.

"People tell me, 'I like nice things!' I'm not saying get rid of them, just be more intentional about what things you have," she says. "So often we keep stuff that served us well in the past or might serve us well in the future, but it isn't serving us in the present."

Formerly a serious online shopper, Becca went on a year-long shopping fast. She channeled her newly freed time and energy into earning a doctor of ministry degree in Christian spirituality from United Lutheran Seminary. Practicing Christian minimalism has helped her use her spiritual gifts "in ways that are actually of service to our world and God," she says.

During this pandemic year, Becca has watched people forced to streamline their lives begin to spend more time with family. "Now we have a choice," she says. "Do we want to continue on that path and be intentional, or go back to our previous path because it was comfortable and society urges us that way?"

Letting Go, Letting God

In other words, from Disorder, shall

we let God lead us toward Reorder? Or do we turn our backs and go back to a notion of Order that may no longer fit?

"Christian minimalists know that surrender and letting go is important to our walk with Christ," Becca says in her blog. "We cannot be who God is calling us to be when we are holding tightly onto things, habits and commitments that are not serving us well anymore."

My mother is not a minimalist. She absolutely holds tightly to her things and her habits, and I'm not going to change her. She likes how her home looks. Her home is where she stores her past, where any given object will trigger a memory of who she and my father have been during their 68-year union.

But in our conversation, Becca pushes back on that a bit. When we confuse objects with memories, we can easily end up being overwhelmed by items with sentimental meaning. She shares some great strategies for getting a grip on scrapbooks, photos and your children's elementary school art masterpieces. (Find her ideas in her post titled "Sentimental Items.") I love her suggestions. My mom wouldn't.

Talking to Becca helps me more fully grasp how my mom feels about her home.

My father has forgotten everything; my mother remembers it all. She doesn't need her many possessions to remind her of their past. She needs them to remind everyone else. She worries that her children and grandchildren don't sufficiently appreciate that past—a past completely unfamiliar to the passing stream of nurses and bath givers and social workers. She's pretty sure that by sharing her things and the stories she tells about them, our many helpers will see more than just two generic old folks in bed.

So even though I'm definitely a Christian minimalist—and hope you'll consider becoming one too—this year my

Order. Disorder. Reorder. Life. Death. Resurrection. We enact this pattern again and again as we live our lives and clean our living spaces.

spring cleaning will be about dusting my mom's museum, not dismantling or downsizing it. Using skills she taught me, I'll keep the place to her standards. I'll wipe out the breadbox, organize the drawers and scrub sticky spots off the shelf liners. I'll consult her on whether to repair or replace the vacuum and help find a handyman when a faucet drips.

My work will be a comfort to both of us as she and my dad walk further into the great disorder of illness and old age. Walking with them, I'm living through Order, Disorder, Reorder too. Keeping my mother's things the same will help me to process the change stalking me—when the order that my parents created and adapted over many decades in our childhood home is lost to my siblings and me. There will be plenty of time for minimalism then.

As our hospice case manager said not long ago, very gently, "Death is the one thing we all have the privilege of experiencing."

Citing John 12:24, Richard Rohr says that during transformation, "part of us has to die if we are ever to grow larger. ...If we're not willing to let go of our smaller selves our norms, beliefs, and preferences, we won't be able to enter the more expansive and inclusive space of Reorder."

The eternal mystery of Reorder—the end of all our spring cleaning—lies ahead; when it comes, it will be a gift from God.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
—Psalm 104:24

Throughout Scripture, God promises to restore God's people to health and wholeness, a promise that includes the renewal of all creation. This promise is depicted dramatically in the final pages of the book of Revelation as a grand vision of a new heaven and a new earth. The earth and its inhabitants are weary and uncertain, battered by plagues and death, wars and destruction. But God is still there, persistent and faithful. At the last, God reveals a renewed heaven and an earth permeated by the presence of God, transformed from pain to be a place of healing and wholeness for all things. The 2021 Earth Day theme, "Restore Our Earth," reminds us of this vision and the holy work God entrusts to us — of seeking the well-being of creation as inseparable from the wholeness of humankind.

In the past year the world received a jolt from its collision with the COVID-19 pandemic, which laid bare persistent racial disparities in health care access and outcomes in our nation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noted the disproportionate impact (increased hospitalizations and deaths) of the pandemic on some racial and ethnic minority groups. The CDC found that "inequities in the social determinants of health, such as poverty and healthcare access, affecting these groups are interrelated and influence a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks."

The racial reckonings of 2020 illuminate how the legacies of slavery, the Doctrine of Discovery and colonization continue to diminish life for people and creation. The glaring inequities exposed through the pandemic are being intensified by the global impacts of climate change. The final 2020 update of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) found last year to be one of historical extremes. There were 22 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters across the United States, which shattered the previous annual record of 16 events in 2011 and 2017. All these disasters disproportionately affected people of color and the most vulnerable populations. We are one people and one earth in need of restoration.

Repenting the sin of racism and repenting our destruction of creation should happen together. Because God gave humans the vocation to be stewards of the earth, we proclaim that, for Christians, care of the earth is not an "environmental cause." Instead, it is central to our holy calling to treasure the earth and care for it as our home, fully integrating creation care into our love of God, neighbor and all in the environment. Recalling the good earth and our call to be stewards of creation in hope and faith, we know our recovery from the pall of 2020 will, in many ways, be a transition to a new way of life.

Dear church, we can "testify to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:24), which empowers us to move forward. We know that healing is possible — for the planet and for our communities. We are not too late. The time is now. To us, God is calling; through us, God wants to work a miracle; through our finite and inadequate efforts, God can and will bring about "a new heaven and a new earth." God provides us with diverse gifts as protectors and guardians of creation. We affirm, therefore, the many stewards of the land who have been and are conserving the good earth that the Lord has given us.

As stewards of creation, we have many ways to lovingly serve the earth:

- Explore and use ELCA Care for Creation resources, including video, study and action guides with information about the Creation Care Ambassadors initiative.
- Read the Lutherans Restoring Creation story "[5 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day as Church Together but Apart.](#)"
- Accept the ELCA Young Adults [No Plastics for Lent](#) challenge this Easter season.
- Participate in a local cleanup (with appropriate distancing) if permitted by local authorities, or participate in the Earth Challenge 2020 citizen scientist initiative, focused on plastic pollution and clean air.
- Join with the ELCA's ecumenical partner [Creation Justice Ministries](#) in advocacy, education and prayer.

Envisioning a world that is just, sustainable and resilient, we, as Lutherans, heed God's call and take concrete steps to repair inequities and wealth divides locally, nationally and globally. A framework built on hope and connecting climate to economic and racial justice is essential to our reimagining of communities as resilient and inclusive, void of poverty and leaving no one behind.

In Christ,



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

An invitation to dig deeper at The Justice Conference Global

Want to dig deeper into the roots of biblical justice? On May 22nd, 2021, Tearfund is hosting the Justice Conference Global to help ground the global church in the work and theology of biblical justice. The Justice Conference was born from a desire to see the Christian church understand and embrace this inseparable whole and partner with God in seeking justice.

This year, the Justice Conference is a global event, taking place virtually in 11 countries around the globe featuring incredible speakers like Lisa Sharon Harper, Danielle Strickland, Katharine Hayhoe, and more.

As the world suffers from increasing polarization, division, and injustice, this event could not come at a better time. To keep doing the work of justice, we must be rooted in the Christ-centred, prophetic tradition of biblical justice.

Would you join us online in this journey of justice as we continue to learn how we can embody biblical justice so that we can “go and do likewise”?

Join us at the Justice Conference Global on May 22nd! Use the code **REDLETTERS** to get 20% off regular tickets at www.thejusticeconference.ca

This announcement is from Red Letter *Christians*: <https://www.redletterchristians.org/>

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” – Proverbs 31: 8-9



Fridays | 10 a.m. to Noon | West Lafayette

The new LUM Westside Food Pantry is now open on Fridays, 10am to Noon. It's a pop-up food pantry in West Lafayette featuring basic food items, **proteins, produce & paper products** for local individuals and families-in-need. Due to COVID-19, all food distribution will be outside of the facility, practicing strict social distancing. LUM Westside Food Pantry details are as follows:

Days/Hours - Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to Noon

Location - Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Meridian Street, West Lafayette, IN
(Smiley Street Entrance near Playground)

Open to Adult (at least 18 years of age) residents of Tippecanoe County

Pantry Items (always depends on availability):

- Food items from the USDA
- Frozen meats
- Fresh Produce: Fruits & Vegetables
- Eggs; Peanut butter
- Canned meats (beef, chicken), canned fish (tuna)
- Beans, legumes, lentils – dry or canned
- Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Facial Tissues
- Baby Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, Baby Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products: liners, napkins, pads, tampons, wipes

For more information about the LUM Westside Food Pantry, email foodpantry@lumserve.org.

Congratulations, Emma & Anna!



JOIN US FOR A

GRAD PARTY

CELEBRATING

Emma and Anna Henderson

06 . 05 . 21
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

8472 State Road 43 N
Battle Ground, IN 47920

RSVP to Angie Henderson by text
(402) 213-9157 or
hendersonfab5@gmail.com
by 06 . 02



News items for the June *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 5/25/2021. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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The Evangel

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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